Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Nocturnal flowering of Mentzelia ornata.—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN said this old species had only just found its way into cultivation, and afforded an opportunity to note its distinctive habits. His nephew, Mr. Joseph T. Meehan, had kindly watched for him, and found that the same flower opened on four successive nights; on the fifth it made a weak attempt to open, but soon faded away. The flower commenced to open soon after sundown (6 P.M.), very rapidly the first day, and commenced closing again in about three hours, becoming entirely closed by midnight. The second night they opened more slowly, and commenced to close earlier, so that the final closing was again about midnight. The last two nights the motion was slower, but occupied about the same time on the whole. Mr. Redfield had noted, Mr. M. observed, that some Mentzelias opened by day and some by night, but he knew of no attempts to time the opening exactly.

In order to tell whether these openings and closings by night had anything to do with fertilization by insect agency, he had inclosed one flower in a gauze bag, and found it to have a seed vessel apparently as perfectly developed as the rest. The seed might possibly be imperfect when the seed vessel was mature, but this was hardly likely, as the instances where plants developed their capsules in the absence of fertilization were uncommon.

SEPTEMBER 19.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-eight members present.

Notes on the Coniferæ.—Dr. ENGELMANN, of St. Louis, spoke about *Abies Fraseri*, the very local species of the highest mountains of North Carolina, which he had just visited, together with several botanical friends, members of this society. This is the tree which caused these mountains to be designated as the Black Mountains; giving their summits that sombre hue for which they are known. They seem to grow nowhere but on these mountains, and only on those that reach up to or above 6000 feet altitude. The northern localities claimed for the species, rest on confusion with forms of *Abies balsamea*, the common northern balsam, of which our tree may be claimed to be the southern representative. *A. balsamea* does not seem to extend southward further than the Virginian mountain region; and it would be interesting to ascertain how near both species approach each other.

Besides the well-known characters of the cones and their cusps, excellent distinctions are found in the structure of the leaves of both species. It may not be generally known, though it is a fact to which, since several years, some European botanists have called attention, that the anatomical structure of the leaves of these